

Leaders send Armed Forces Day messages

From the President

I am proud to offer my sincere thanks during Armed Forces Week to the brave men and women who protect our Nation.

During the past several months, I have been privileged to witness personally the depth of your dedication and the strength of your character. The professional manner in which you conduct your duties, your can-do spirit, and your sense of patriotism all reflect the fact that our Armed Forces are second to none in the world.

In a world of both existing and emerging threats, you provide a strong and steady defense. Because of you, America is a secure nation where our citizens can hope, dream, and live their lives in freedom.

My office holds no greater honor than to serve as your Commander in Chief. On behalf of all Americans this Armed Forces Week, I salute you for the tremendous contributions you make to our Nation's defense. You are guardians of peace and liberty and have the thanks of a grateful Nation. May God bless you all.

George W. Bush, President of the United States

From the Secretary of Defense

Each year America sets aside a day to commemorate the devotion of our men and women in uniform — the certain foundation of the liberties and peace that we have enjoyed throughout the history of our nation. Yours is a calling distinct and unique, for you voluntarily put your lives at risk defending the freedoms we hold dear. Indeed, in peacetime or in war, as you work to keep us safe, you assume risks many will never know. And wherever it is that you serve — in any sky, on any ocean, on any shore — your dedication to our nation's ideal of "peace through strength" is a source of hope and inspiration for liberty-loving people around the globe.

In his Inauguration Address, President George W. Bush spoke about civility, courage, and character — qualities that make this nation special — and he reminded Americans that the strength that matters most is not the strength of arms, but the strength of character expressed in service to something larger than ourselves. This strength of character infuses you, our military men and women, and, as such, you are this nation's ultimate safeguard and blessing.

On this Armed Force Day, the American people join me in expressing our deep gratitude to you — patriots who embody the noble spirit of service and sacrifice as you preserve the blessings of our freedom every day. We thank you, and we are enormously proud of your faithful and selfless service.

Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense

From the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

On the first Armed Forces Day in 1950, President Truman called on Americans to recognize "the skill, gallantry, and uncompromising devotion to duty characteristic of the armed forces in the carrying out of their missions." Today, we continue this tradition as Americans are reminded of the hardships our service members willingly endure to keep this great country free and strong.

Our men and women in uniform share the spirit of service and devotion to duty that are the hallmarks of the profession of arms. Like all who have carried the torch throughout our history, today's warriors bear the burdens that make our nation's blessings a birthright for all citizens. While weapons and technology are important elements in our fighting ability, the magnificent men and women in each of the services remain the core of our military might.

Today, May 19, belongs to those who serve in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard. I salute each of you for your dedication, sacrifice and faithful service. Because of you, America is safe, and millions of people worldwide now enjoy an unprecedented opportunity for lasting peace and freedom.

Army Gen. Henry Shelton, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff

Medics undergo inspection

*By Lt. Col. Steven Stein
8th Medical Support Squadron*

As a healthcare organization, there are two primary external oversight agencies through which we validate our mission capability.

These are the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and the Air Force Health Services Inspection. When these two agencies inspect an Air Force medical treatment facility simultaneously, the inspection is called a Sustained Performance Odyssey. The combined JCAHO/HSI will take place here at the 8th Medical Group June 11-14.

Although our facility was accredited during the October 1998 inspection, the periodic recertification is necessary to validate that we continue to deliver the highest quality of healthcare services.

What is JCAHO?

It is the civilian body that accredits healthcare organizations nationwide. It's important because the Department of Defense, Medicare, numerous insurance companies and health plans require JCAHO accreditation.

More importantly, it's a symbol of quality in the delivery of healthcare, and professionalism.

What does this involve?

Approximately every three years,

JCAHO conducts a survey consisting of review, inspection and questioning. It is important for all medical personnel to fully understand the hospital environment of care program, department procedures and the JCAHO standards for their department.

What is the HSI?

It's an inspection conducted by Air Force medical personnel from the Air Force Inspection Agency at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. As such, it is a Headquarters Air Force Inspector General inspection. This military inspection is the medical equivalent of the wing's Unit Compliance Inspection for our line counterparts, and provides an indication to Air Force leadership of how ready and able we are to support the mission. The 8th MDG's last HSI was in October 1998. Although these two broad-spectrum agencies are our primary evaluation sources, we are in no way limited to these two bodies.

There are many location-specific regulatory and certification agencies that validate our provision of quality service and care (Example: The College of American Pathologists periodically inspects our laboratory).

We strive daily to meet or exceed our patients' expectations, and we solicit your honest and direct feedback about the services we provide.

Commander's Hotline

The commander's hotline is your direct line of communication between me and the Wolf Pack. It's one of several means of helping to resolve concerns and to get my response to comments and questions. As a general rule, I ask you to contact the agency involved first, but if you are not satisfied, call the hotline at 782-5284, e-mail the 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office or e-mail me directly.



Col. Burt Field
8th Fighter Wing commander

Who to call	
Base exchange.....	782-4520
Chapel.....	782-4300
Civil engineer squadron customer service.....	782-5318
Commissary manager.....	782-4144
Computer help desk.....	782-2666
Fitness center.....	782-4026
Housing office.....	782-4088
Inspector General.....	782-4850
IDEA office.....	782-4020
Law enforcement desk.....	782-4944
Legal assistance.....	782-4283
Military equal opportunity.....	782-4055
Military pay.....	782-5574
Military personnel flight customer service.....	782-5276
Medical patient advocate.....	782-4014



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